

Serial Number 09/580,968

REMARKS

The above-amendments correct the formatting of the amendments to claims 16 and 17, originally presented in the Response submitted on December 22, 2003. The strikeouts included in the December 22 Response have been replaced by brackets, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.173 and MPEP 1453. An explanation of, and support for, the amendments is set forth in the December 22 Response.

For the reasons stated in the December 22 Response, withdrawal of any remaining objections and rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'By [Signature]', followed by a horizontal line.

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Date: January 29, 2004

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